

PPD Tuberculin Skin Test Requirement

Must have a PPD Tuberculin skin test no more than ninety (90) days prior to employment, unless a previously positive reaction can be documented. The two-step procedure is advisable for initial testing in those who are new employees in order to establish a reliable baseline. [If the reaction to the first test is classified as negative, a second test should be given one to three weeks after the first test. If the second test is classified as negative, the person is considered as being uninfected. A positive reaction to a third test (with an increase of more than 10mm) in such a person within the next few years is likely to represent the occurrence of infection with *M. Tuberculosis* in the interval. If the reaction to the second of the initial two tests is positive, this probably represents a boosted reaction, and the person should be considered as being infected.]

In lieu of a PPD tuberculin test no more than 90 days prior to employment, a new employee may provide certification of a negative tuberculin skin test within the 12 months preceding the date of employment and certification from a licensed physician or local health department TB staff that s/he is free of the disease.

Employees with reactions of 10mm and over to the pre-employment tuberculin test, those with newly converted skin tests, and those with symptoms suggestive of tuberculosis (e.g., cough, weight loss, night sweats, fever, etc.) regardless of skin test status, shall be given a chest radiograph to determine whether tuberculosis disease is present. If tuberculosis is diagnosed, appropriate treatment must be given, and the person must not be allowed to work until declared non-contagious by a licensed physician.

Routine chest radiographs are not required on employees who are asymptomatic with negative tuberculin skin tests. Employees with negative tuberculin skin tests shall have an annual tuberculin skin test.

New employees who have a history of tuberculosis disease and have had adequate treatment shall be required to have certification by a licensed physician or local health department TB staff (prior to employment and annually) that they are not contagious. Regular employees who are known or suspected to have tuberculosis shall be required to be evaluated by a licensed physician or local health department TB staff, and must not return to work until they have been declared non-contagious.

Preventive treatment should be considered for all infected employees having direct client contact who are skin test positive but show no symptoms of tuberculosis. Routine annual chest radiographs are not a substitute for preventive treatment. Employees who complete treatment, either for disease or infection, are exempt from further routine radiographic screening, unless they develop symptoms of tuberculosis. Employees who do not complete adequate preventive therapy should have an annual assessment for symptoms of tuberculosis.

Post exposure skin tests should be provided for tuberculin negative employees within twelve (12) weeks after termination of contact to a documented case of infection.

Providers needing additional information should contact the Tuberculosis Control Division, Department of Health and Environmental Control, 1751 Calhoun Street, Columbia, S.C. 29201 (phone (803) 898-0558).